

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2006

PRESENT: Committee Members Charles Kimball, Peg Pinkham, Kevin Zukas, Marc Wood, Joe Delahunty, Don Gates, Audrey Karamourtopoulos and Selectmen's Clerk, Jeanne Nygren.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by Charles Kimball.

Motion was made by Kimball and seconded by Delahunty to approve the minutes for January 3, 2005 as written. The vote was unanimously approved 7-0.

Pinkham suggested that perhaps by failure to communicate to the Budget Committee the things are happening with the School Department while in progress, they should be presented to the Budget Committee so they can review them weekly or monthly to be abreast of the ongoing topics discussed in the budget to maybe alleviate them from getting everything at the very end when reviewing the budget..

Gates questions developed simple one or two lines.

The question on teachers collecting Social Security and NH state retirement was answered by Pinkham as yes. State had choice several years on how to vote about and they get two and pay into two. Gates can't understand how this could have been voted on.

*Page 43-2140-Psychology salary-\$13,436 partial increase on salary and increase because of contracted services have gone up. Delahunty said every department has a large increase in testing materials. As discussed last week this is being investigated and the explanation will be given. Delahunty asked what is required and by whom as opposed to what is mandated. A finer breakdown is in process.

*Page 46-2150-Speech & language pathologist position. Delahunty asked what this position is about. Preschool level right through the 8th grade and helps the students with impediments and those who don't understand with language disorders. Most are pre-identified needs that are identified and have to be supported. This is not just in Fremont but it is countrywide.

*Page 47-2150- Zukas asked why is only one speech pathologist receiving \$700 increase and the other 3 have not.

*Page 50-2160-Physical and occupational therapist work in house. Gates asked does physical cover motor skills. Pinkham yes usually and some overlap. Gates asked what does COTA stand for.

*Page 54-2210- position eliminated. Kimball asked why is workshop \$1000 fee still there. Pinkham said because there are still some teachers going to workshops. Professional books and journals still have line items with prices, why? Pinkham said these were redirected into other categories in curriculum development. Can ask committee to reassign these items to where they are really being used. Gates thinks that we should loose every line item and not leave some

money in that budget section. Course reimbursement \$5000. are classes set up to keep up teachers skills and are offered at school. Teachers are asked to be qualified on no child left behind to be certified in elementary education. Some may be course reimbursement related to teachers outside classes also. Pinkham will get the answer.

*Page 57-2220-educational media. Computer tech salary Zukas is this a change in position because there is a decrease in 5112-10. Contracted services went up \$15,000. Maybe this is where the change is explained. Pinkham will find out why. \$15,000 replacement of computer equipment. Pinkham this will be supplied in inventory that was asked about last week. Gates thinks this is a discretion item. Need to get into budget to save some money in case there is a need. Pinkham we are looking at a 5 year rotation.

Pinkham question to Delahunty was did you think we overspent the computer budgetary line? Delahunty asked from what lines did money come out of to buy the computers. Pinkham suggested that should all computers be detailed in one section of the budget instead in each category to better understand and follow their upkeep and maintenance. Delahunty replied there was no budget for computers generated last year for purchasing. Kimball thought maybe by combining all at the end as a synopsis for information may be more helpful. Pinkham thought this is okay to have information delivered so what is granted and what is donated and what is purchased is broken down. Delahunty wants lines that were affected to be decreased in budget. They way it is presented now are confusing. Pinkham is trying to come up with how to improve the presentation by the School Committee and make it easier for both sides to have it presented to the budget committee. Wood spoke that the 150 new computers line in budget is what it made it confusing. There was no statement whether they were donations, grants or purchases. Also need to know what is the maintenance program on these computers. Need to have a plan on gifted items with respect to maintenance.

School Board Members want the Budget Committee to know they also are authorized by the voters to administrate. They don't understand some of the questions that were asked by the Budget Committee.

Gates wanted to know where did the money come from initially is the main question needing to be answered.

Pinkham made it known to Wood that he will be asked if he would be interested in running for School Board.

Page 62-School Board-what is criminal background check. Pinkham responded anyone working at the school needs to have this done.

*Page 63-5310-00 SAU-expense could go up \$17,000. to \$219,000. because of withdrawal from SAU and need to contract out. Chester dropped and the amount was determined by number of kids. Put money into developing our own SAU. Pinkham thinks that more than likely we will become a part of another SAU. Epping in the past has been paying a larger portion and Fremont hadn't been paying rent.

*Page 80-5519-00 Transportation. How many buses do we have? Gates wanted to know if there ever was a study to see if it is more feasible to purchase the buses. Kimball stated that he doesn't think this will be cost effective. Maybe another study should be done. Delahunty questioned curricular transport 5519-00 what is this figure without anything ever being spent on this line. In the beginning it was \$400. and nothing has been used through the years. Pinkham said that in the last few years there has been a large growth of student activities. She will find out.

Pinkham stated the administration and school board are not available on the 24th of January because of the scheduled school board meeting. They would like to come in on the 17th if the Budget Committee is ready.

Janice O'Brien came in at 8:35 with copies of the bond schedule. The Open Space Committee is bringing forward \$1 million bond for preservation and conservation of Fremont land. The bond is to be used for land acquisition or easements. Parcel of about 80 acres is being considered. An appraisal came in at \$122,000. There is no agreement with the landowner yet. Open Space Committee is waiting to hear what they have to say. If they can come to some type of agreement Open Space Committee won't go above the appraised value. Audrey asked why it is so cheap. Only a limited appraisal, they only get the bottom line. If they need any more specifics then another appraisal with a fee will be necessary. The reason for a low evaluation because partially it is difficult to access the land. Majority of access is from 125 from land in Brentwood. When looking at just this package most of the valuable acreage is in Fremont. Mike Speltz is the contact person with the landowner. Land is contiguous with Glen Oaks (North-East) and will add to this package that the town already own. If developed then a cut through road in Glen Oaks may be necessary. Land in Fremont if Brentwood Land is being developed there may be a need for emergency response. Come in through Brentwood is not usable, 1800 feet is allowed and the rest is unusable. Pinkham asked what the taxes on it are. O'Brien responded it is in current use. O'Brien did apply for a grant through Costal Protection Watershed Land Protection Transaction Assistance. There were other parcels offered but committee doesn't think they didn't fit into overall plan. UNH cooperative extension has also contacted land owners in town.

O'Brien reported that the landowner could come to the decision that he can't want for town meeting and decisions to be made and a good piece of property could be lost. Only at the beginning stages and in the next few weeks hope to get some response from the landowner. If the owner decided to tack on the Brentwood parcel they could get more money.

Karamourtopoulos thinks this should be put into a warrant article to add to the million dollars asked for the best of Fremont.

Kimball spoke that they need to get the appropriate sum of money when presenting the figure so as not to have the mistakes make 3 years ago. O'Brien stated that because they were new committees and because of the lack of communications between commissions that was why. The committee now has a much better process \$45,000. was allocated from current use funds for costs. An \$8000.00 grant was received. 5% for administrative costs. Current use fund is being used for this and not bonding the money. Delahunty asked could this money be used to purchase this land. Would you ever consider putting up a slide show to demonstrate where the money

went and what it did? O'Brien said his is a good point. Separate the million and the \$122,000. amounts. Applied for grants (Gates) has meant that the commission had to put a lot of time and labor into them, and there was criticism by town's people.

The bond public hearing is where people should voice their opinions. O'Brien believes that valid reasons come up by them but the final decision is the Selectmen. Karamourtopoulos thinks we should give the town the choice to vote on.

Kimball if money is granted when do you take the money out. O'Brien the money will only taken out when needed for a project that is being done.

O'Brien said land value doesn't go down when property abuts conservation land. O'Brien handed out the Dollars & Sense of Open Space and the Fremont Open Space Committee proposal process. The Open Space Committee might need to sit again with Selectmen If larger general bond passes then they would not have to come back for a few years. Gates advantage when people move in and out of community is the better way to do it. O'Brien said all other towns to it this way by general bond.

Glen Oaks can dead trees be taken down Kimball asked... Conservation easement will submit a harvest plan. O'Brien said if anything else is needed to contact Heidi and she'll get it to the committee.

Gates there is a criteria for the project to be done. O'Brien stated that each different project qualifies for some type of grant funding and they start to apply for that.

Kimball anymore questions on the school budget. Pinkham if ready will come in on the 17th with Budget Committee, School Board and Administration.

Warrant article sheet was viewed briefly.

Zukas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wood seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted ,

Jeanne Nygren